

# Fresno Police Department

## Chief's Advisory Board Minutes

September 25, 2008

Present: Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, Tom Gentile, Harry Gill, Jesse McDonald, Luke Raughley, Morgan Doizaki, Kelly Nelum,

Absent: Roz Clark, Paula Farris, H. Spees, Jimmy Bosquez, Debra Odom, Michael Roth, Gordon Donoho, Jan Sangster, Carol Mills, Enrique Reade, David Tittle, Mui Vuong, Rebeca Rangel, Jim Poptanich

Guests: Deputy Chief Robert Nevarez (for Chief Dyer), Sergeant Brian Rogers, Staff Assistant Lissa Parker.

Call to Order: The meeting, held in the City Hall Annex Training Room, was called to order at 5:35 pm.

### Minutes:

Minutes from August 28, 2008 were approved without corrections

### Opening Remarks:

None

### Agenda Items:

#### Video Policing

**Nevarez:** The Department held a press conference yesterday regarding video policing. Infrastructure is in place to increase number of cameras. A group of cadets monitor a big bank of cameras and look for anything suspicious. If they see anything, they call for an officer to check it out. So far this is proving highly successful. The cadets are very focused and enthusiastic, and more cost efficient than officers would be. The press conference highlighted 3 or 4 incidents. Interesting note: In one of them, an in-progress stabbing at Fresno and B Street, the DAs office didn't file charges because the victim didn't want to press charges. Even though she resisted arrest, they didn't file on that one either. D.C. Shaffer and I are meeting w/DAs office regarding the large number of cases not getting filed on that should be.

**Abu-Shamsieh:** Is there any resistance regarding the cameras?

**Nevarez:** Not as much as we did initially, because we've done a good job of educating the public about what they are to be used for. Much of the public education regarding the cameras has been on what they can and can't do. We are only concerned with areas open to the public, where there is no expectation of privacy. There are also signs letting people know the cameras are there and that their behavior may be recorded.

**Raughly:** How many cameras are up and running?

**Nevarez:** Approximately 58, however this number is growing every week. The main difference between our system and most other systems is that ours is being actively monitored. Other Departments use theirs to go back and get evidence or investigate. Ours can be panned, tilted and zoomed toward the action and, since we are watching, officers can be called immediately to crimes in progress.

**Doizaki:** Are there any in Chinatown?

**Nevarez:** I think Chinatown is in the next phase. We are aiming for any highly concentrated areas with high number of crimes.

#### Citing of a School Principal for Assaulting a Student

**Nevarez:** An elementary school principal has been cited for assaulting a student by pulling the child's hair, forcibly moving the child by using her hair. This occurred over what the principal considered inappropriate hair color and the child's reason for why the colored extensions had not been removed, as the principal had requested. A teacher witnessed the assault, but did not report it; she did corroborate after the parents reported the incident. There is a PC section that allows us to make arrests for misdemeanors on school property even when it was not witnessed by an officer. The principal is on administrative leave. We hear this is not the first time similar incidents have occurred.

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**Nelum:** The other major issue is that the teacher has a duty to report, is mandated to do so. Her credentials may be in question as well. I'm kind of happy this is coming to light. It is a serious problem when educators who are ethically bound to report [abuse] don't do it because they fear for their jobs or it gets swept under the carpet. Parents can't even chastise their kids in the presence of a teacher without getting reported, but teachers and principals do things and get away with it. We have to be bound by our educational code and follow it to the letter.

### City's Lawsuit against the Sheriff's Department

**Nevarez:** About 3 weeks ago, the Sheriff decided to release certain prisoners from custody, at first citing overcrowding and not wanting to violate court order. We suspected it was because she was underfunded. It came to light that that was right. In order to function, the Sheriff had to shut down part of the jail. We weren't given any advance notice as to who was being released and what kind of charges they had committed. We now had numerous suspects on our streets that should have been in custody for serious crimes. These were people responsible for vehicle and home burglars, identity theft in the thousands, and other property crimes, etc. We tried to get the Sheriff's Department to tell us who they released; they refused to tell us. We were put in the position of having to do a Public Records Act Request.

**Gill:** How many were released?

**Rogers:** I believe they stopped after 83 or so.

**Nevarez:** The City of Fresno has filed a lawsuit against Fresno County. We are seeking a standing order that, if the Sheriff is facing the release of prisoners again in the future, we are to be told who is being released and what offenses they are charged with a minimum of three days in advance.

### ROUND TABLE:

**Gentile:** There are numerous complaints from residents in the 4<sup>th</sup> District regarding code violations, some involving farm animals. Code enforcement is occurring selectively in the Melody Park area.

**Nevarez:** We'll try to get that information over to someone in Code Enforcement

**Abu-Shamsieh:** There are many drivers still talking on their phones while driving in Northeast.

**Nevarez:** Well, we are writing a lot of tickets. Ticket numbers are up about 15%. It will take some time for voluntary compliance. Also, in January, the law will include text messaging.

**Nelum:** I've been getting an influx of complaints coming from Brookhaven regarding the behavior of a specific officer. Also, Brookhaven has been experiencing a lot of burglaries.

**Doizaki:** As of August 31<sup>st</sup>, no more security guard. Cameras would help a lot. We don't want people to see lack of security in Chinatown as an opportunity.

**Nevarez:** I will get a hold of Captain Maroney and make sure he is in touch with you.

### Closing Remarks:

None

### Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

### Next Meeting:

November 20, 2008